

Mass Sunday, p. 470.
2nd col. of St. Paschal,
p. 819.

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Mass Monday of St. Venan-
tius, p. 820. 2nd col.
of Rogation Day, p. 473

Criticism.

It is said that the Irish satirist, Jonathan Swift, became so gloomy that he could look on no beautiful face without imagining its loathsome appearance under the microscope. Thousands over the world possess Swift's cynicism but, unfortunately, not his talent and wit. They habitually see the unsightly side of men and things.

If they are not mere bores, they and their unfair detractions are the destroyers of friendships, the riflers of reputations, the poisonous gases that stifle union and wholesome activity among men.

They often minimize the evil that they do. I mean no wrong. I do no great harm. What I say is true. I but speak out frankly against the foolish delusions of the optimist.

In all things created there is some imperfection. Every person, every institution, every city, every climate has its faults. No great mind is required to see that. Sometimes, too, it is Christlike to observe imperfection and to try charitably to correct it.

But the chronic critic lacks the control and courage necessary to work constructively. He runs down the other fellow's pennant merely to bring up his own. He abuses to requite his own passion for ruling. He belittles to equalize superior men with himself. He villifies, not to heal, but to kill.

Criticism, if morally good, is not mere detraction. To run off bitterly and cleverly, either at the mouth or pen point, is not always just criticism. Criticism must have a worthy purpose, it must be advanced for a good end. It must be done with reasonable hope of attaining its end, with the smallest damage possible to persons and institutions. No point, you know, to killing flies with a meat hatchet!

Criticism, if honest, must be founded upon established fact--not upon hearsay or fancy or suspicion. Criticism, if prudent, should be advanced, when possible, to a responsible person who has the duty and ability to correct the evil in point.

Many careless and vicious sins of speech are passed off under the innocent word, "criticism," as if that made them blessed.

Reputations of men and institutions are sacred possessions--more sacred than buildings or money. And restitution for injuries done to reputations must be made--in this life or in the next.

If you respect God's law; if, at peace with yourself, you would be a sincere and welcome friend to your fellowmen, learn to control your tongue!

Rogation Days.

Next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are the minor Rogation Days, known in England as "Gang Days" and "Cross Week." They are days of prayer, and formerly of fasting, instituted by the Church to appease God's anger at man's transgressions, to ask protection in calamities, and to obtain good and bountiful harvest. You will see the procession from the church these three mornings if you are up at 5:30. Include in your prayers the intentions of the Rogation Days.

Daily Communion in May.

It has been one of the traditional devotions at Notre Dame for years. The chief concern of Our Lady is to bring you closer to her Son.

PRAYERS: Ill, father & friend of Steve Finan; Sister Gerard, C.S.C; Kathleen O'Brien.